

# STRANGE TALES

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COMICS  
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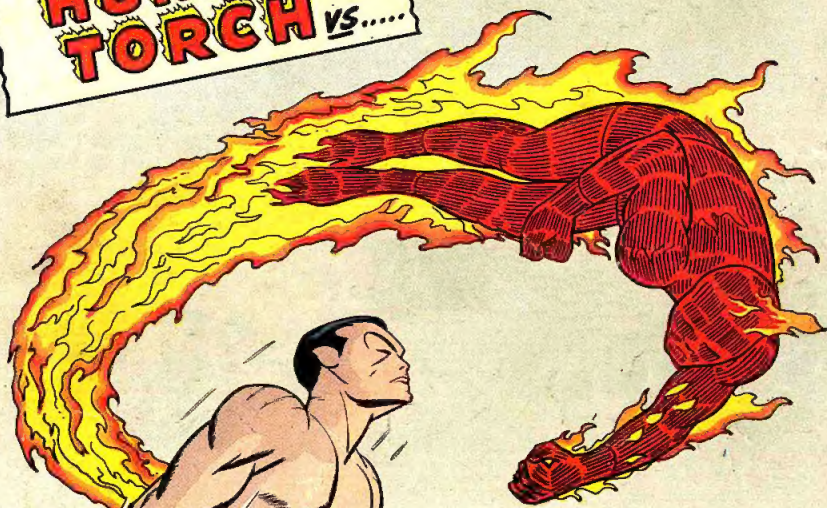
MC

12¢

THE EPIC BATTLE WHICH  
YOU DEMANDED...

THE  
**HUMAN  
TORCH** VS.....

107  
APR.



....THE  
**MIGHTY  
SUB-MARINER**  
FACING EACH OTHER IN  
A BREATH-TAKING SAGA OF  
FIRE AGAINST WATER!!  
THIS ONE IS THE  
**BIG ONE!**

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the  
**HUMAN  
TORCH**

FACE-TO-FACE WITH PRINCE NAMOR, THE MIGHTY

**SUB-MARINER**

ONE DAY, WHEN JOHNNY STORM  
COMES HOME FROM SCHOOL...

HEY, WHAT ARE  
YOU GUYS DOING  
HERE? WHO'S  
MINDING THE  
STORE?

WISECRACKS!  
ALL THE TIME  
WISECRACKS!  
AINT YOU EVER  
SERIOUS, SQUIRT?

WE WERE  
WORKING ON  
OUR NOTES FOR  
NEXT MONTH'S  
FANTASTIC FOUR  
ADVENTURE! SUE  
WAS NICE  
ENOUGH TO TYPE  
THEM UP FOR  
US!

THE  
MASTER OF  
FLAME vs.  
THE MONARCH  
OF THE  
SEA!!

PLOT:  
STAN LEE  
SCRIPT:  
LARRY LIEBER  
ART:  
DICK AYERS  
LETTERING:  
ART SIMK



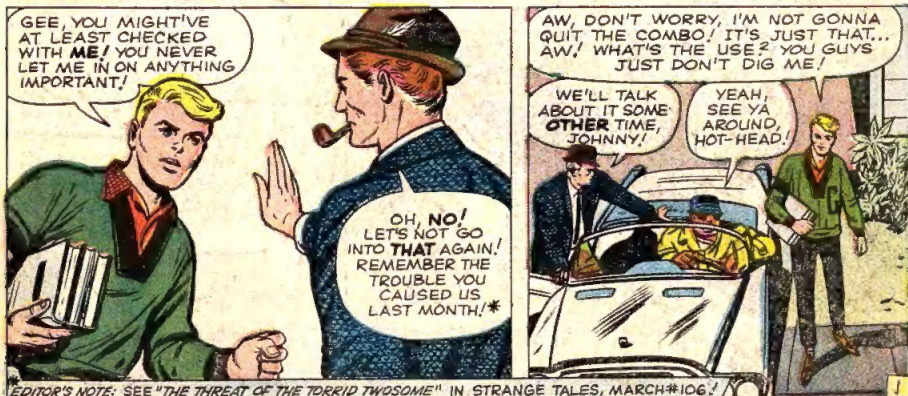
GEE, YOU MIGHT'VE  
AT LEAST CHECKED  
WITH ME! YOU NEVER  
LET ME IN ON ANYTHING  
IMPORTANT!

OH, NO!  
LET'S NOT GO  
INTO THAT AGAIN!  
REMEMBER THE  
TROUBLE YOU  
CAUSED US  
LAST MONTH!\*

AW, DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GONNA  
QUIT THE COMBO! IT'S JUST THAT...  
AW, WHAT'S THE USE? YOU GUYS  
JUST DON'T DIG ME!

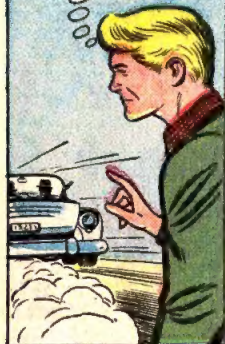
WE'LL TALK  
ABOUT IT SOME  
OTHER TIME,  
JOHNNY!

YEAH,  
SEE YA  
AROUND,  
HOT-HEAD!



EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE "THE THREAT OF THE TORRID TWOSOME" IN STRANGE TALES, MARCH #106!

SURE, TO THEM I'M JUST A KID! AND THEY'LL NEVER TREAT ME ANY DIFFERENTLY UNLESS I GIVE THEM A REASON TO!



I FEEL LIKE DOIN' SOMETHING SPECTACULAR! SOLVE A BIG CASE BY MYSELF... OR CATCH A COLORFUL VILLAIN, SINGLE-HANDED!



AND THEN, AS JOHNNY PASSES HIS SISTER'S ROOM...

SUE STILL HAS THAT PHOTO OF THE SUB-MARINER! IT'S NUTTY THE WAY SHE'S CARRYING A TORCH FOR THAT CREEP!



SAY! WAIT A SEC! THE SUB-MARINER! THAT'S THE ANSWER!

WE NEVER REALLY HANDED HIM A DECISIVE DEFEAT! IF I COULD TAKE HIM ON ALONE AND LICK HIM MYSELF, IT WOULD BE A REAL VICTORY!

THEN REED AND THE OTHERS WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER ME AN EQUAL... AND INCLUDE ME IN ON ALL THEIR CONFERENCES!



AND BOY, WHAT A GREAT BATTLE THAT WOULD BE! FIRE AGAINST WATER! TWO OF THE WORLD'S BASIC ELEMENTS!

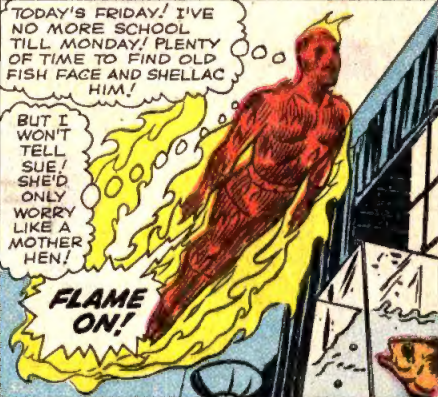


THE MORE I THINK OF IT, THE BETTER IT SOUNDS! I'M GONNA DO IT! I'M GONNA FIGHT SUB-MARINER!

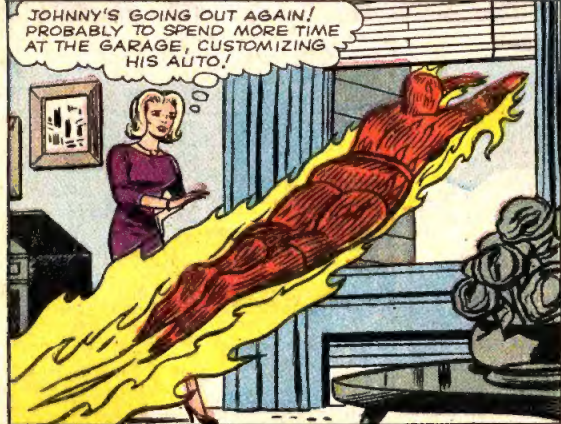
TODAY'S FRIDAY! I'VE NO MORE SCHOOL TILL MONDAY! PLENTY OF TIME TO FIND OLD FISH FACE AND SHELLAC HIM!

BUT I WON'T TELL SUE! SHE'D ONLY WORRY LIKE A MOTHER HEN!

FLAME ON!



JOHNNY'S GOING OUT AGAIN! PROBABLY TO SPEND MORE TIME AT THE GARAGE, CUSTOMIZING HIS AUTO!



OH, WELL... BOYS WILL BE BOYS!



SOARING OUT OVER THE ATLANTIC, THE TORCH HEADS FOR THE GENERAL AREA THAT THE SUB-MARINER IS KNOWN TO INHABIT! BUT, BEFORE HE CAN REACH IT...

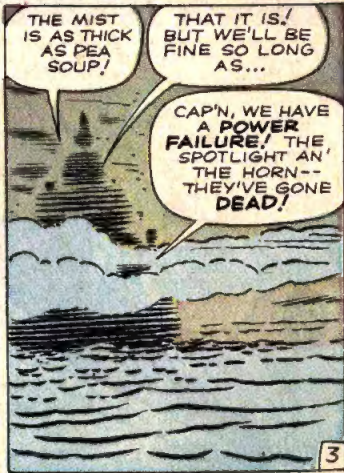


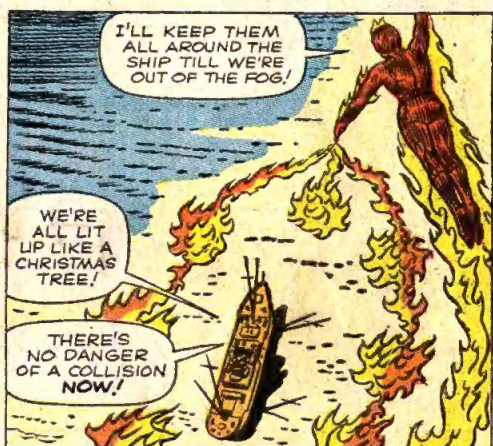
SURE WISH I HAD SOME WAY OF TELLING HOW LONG MY FLAME WILL LAST-- LIKE AN AUTO GAS GAUGE.

MADE IT! JUST IN TIME!



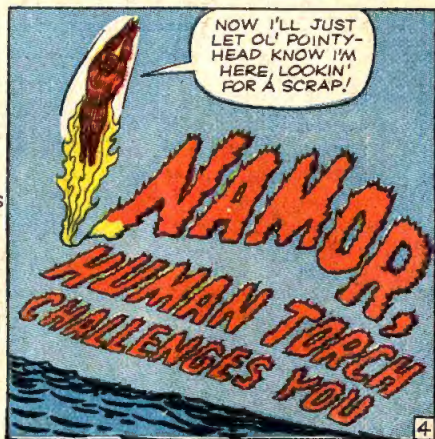
AND SO, JOHNNY IS PUT TO WORK, SWABBING THE DECK!





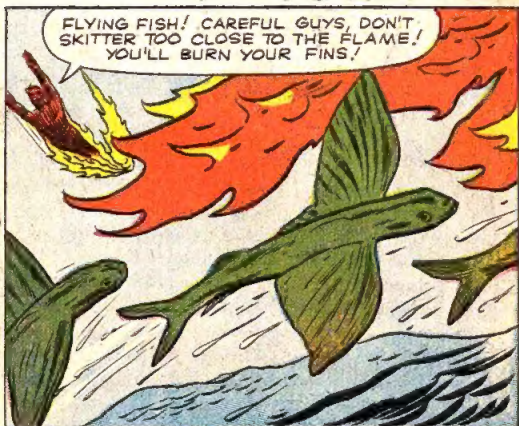
CONTINUING ON COURSE, THE TORCH SOON REACHES THE AREA OF THE SUB-MARINER'S DOMAIN...

4





I'LL KEEP THE MESSAGE LOW  
ENOUGH TO HEAT THE WATER!  
THAT OUGHT TO ATTRACT NAMOR'S  
ATTENTION!

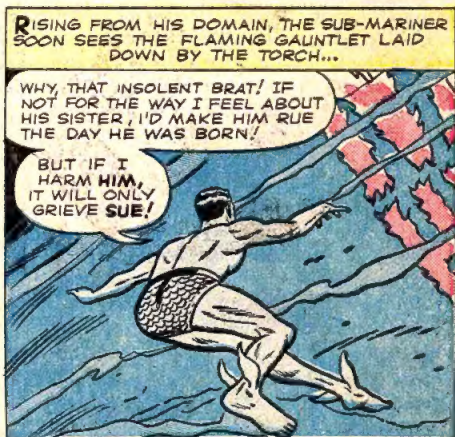


FLYING FISH! CAREFUL GUYS, DON'T  
SKITTER TOO CLOSE TO THE FLAME!  
YOU'LL BURN YOUR FINS!



THERE'S NO WAY FOR A FISH  
TO HAVE GOTTEN BURNED  
DOWN HERE! I'D BETTER  
SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING  
ON THE SURFACE!

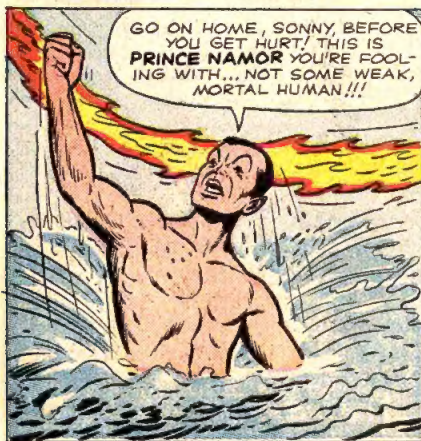
BUT ONE  
OF THE  
FLYING FISH  
DOES GET  
SLIGHTLY  
SINGED!  
AND LATER,  
AS IT SWIMS  
PAST  
THE SEA  
MONARCH,  
MANY  
FATHOMS  
BELOW,  
IT  
ATTRACTS  
HIS  
EVER-  
WATCHFUL  
EYES...



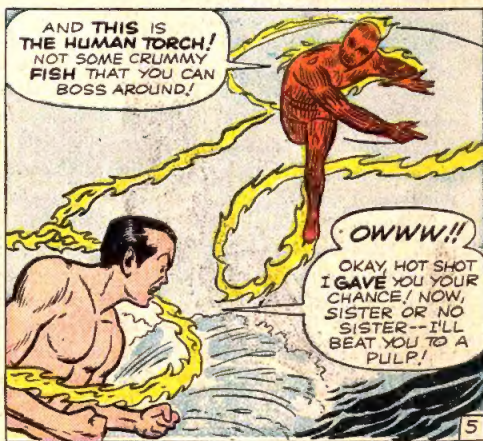
RIISING FROM HIS DOMAIN, THE SUB-MARINER  
SOON SEES THE FLAMING GAUNTLET LAID  
DOWN BY THE TORCH...

WHY, THAT INSOLENT BRAT! IF  
NOT FOR THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT  
HIS SISTER, I'D MAKE HIM RUE  
THE DAY HE WAS BORN!

BUT IF I  
HARM HIM,  
IT WILL ONLY  
GRIEVE SUE!



GO ON HOME, SONNY, BEFORE  
YOU GET HURTY! THIS IS  
PRINCE NAMOR YOU'RE FOOL-  
ING WITH... NOT SOME WEAK,  
MORTAL HUMAN!!!



AND THIS IS  
THE HUMAN TORCH!  
NOT SOME GRUMMY  
FISH THAT YOU CAN  
BOSS AROUND!

OWWW!!

OKAY, HOT SHOT  
I GAVE YOU YOUR  
CHANCE! NOW,  
SISTER OR NO  
SISTER--I'LL  
BEAT YOU TO A  
PULP!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

# THE UNIVERSAL GADGET

"It couldn't be better," Bill Jordan thought to himself as he settled down in his favorite easy chair. A glass of cold, frosty lemonade was at his side, and the T.V. set was tuned to a night baseball game with his home team three runs ahead going into the sixth. With a sigh of contentment, Bill sipped at his lemonade, enjoying the peace and wishing that it would go on forever. It was then, as his enjoyment was at its highest, that all was shattered by the harsh ring of the front doorbell. He threw open the front door and came face to face with the little stranger.

He was no more than five feet tall, and in the light of the full moon his appearance was altogether strange. First, there was his clothes. His coat was at least three sizes too large, and the broad brimmed hat came down to his ears. His trousers were baggy and of such length, that Bill couldn't be certain whether he wore shoes or not. Under his arm he carried a large valise, and on his lips was a puckish grin.

"Might I interest you in one of my unique gadgets, sir?" he asked.

"Gadgets!" exclaimed Bill, his voice rising to a fury. "At this time of night?"

"Why not?" said the little man. "Besides, it would be impossible for me to come at any other time. Now if you'll just allow me . . ." He began to fumble at the straps which bound his valise, when Bill put out a hand to stop him.

"If you don't mind," he said, "I'd rather you didn't. I'm listening to an important ball game, and furthermore, I never buy household articles. That happens to be my wife's department."

"Then I'll speak to your wife," said the little man. "Will you ask her out please?" A new note of firmness had crept into his voice, although the grin remained fixed on his lips. "It won't be a moment," he added. "She'll buy one of my *Universal Gadgets* in the twinkling of an eye."

"Universal Gadget?" queried Bill. This was something new, he thought to himself. At least he had to give the little fellow credit for an original approach. "What's the gimmick?"

"No gimmick," said the smiling little man, and digging into the valise, which was now open, he withdrew a small, cylindrical object. "The Universal Gadget," he said with pride.

It was six inches in length, about the thickness of a garden hose, and made of some kind of metal. The surface had a high brilliance and in the reflected light of the moon it glistened like a polished jewel.

"I'd be happy to demonstrate," the little man said, and with a nimble hop, he jumped over the threshold into the hall.

Then, with exacting care, he placed his valise beside the coat-tree, and then turning to Bill, fixed him with his bright bird-like smile, and holding the

cylindrical object aloft, he began waving it about in the air. Slowly, a pulsating glow seemed to emanate from within the bright metal itself . . . a prismatic effect that passed from red to orange, then to a cold shimmering blue. It was a kind of hypnosis, Bill thought, and then suddenly his eyes stared. The cylindrical object had changed. It was no longer cylindrical! It couldn't be, yet it had happened. From its original shape of a cylinder, the Universal Gadget had become a perfect sphere . . . and right before his eyes!

Then, before Bill could make up his mind as to what was really happening, the Universal Gadget had changed again from a sphere to a perfect cube!

"Suppose you try it," said the smiling little man as he dropped it into his moist palm, whereupon it immediately changed back to its original cylindrical shape.

"What do I do now?" asked Bill. "I mean, how does it work? Does it have any practical applications?"

"The Universal Gadget is *practicality* itself," replied the strange little man. "For example, if you were on a golf course, what would you need to play the game?"

"I suppose I'd need some sort of club," he answered, and hardly had the words left his mouth, when a strange sensation passed along his hand . . . the one holding the object. He stared down. The object was gone, and in its place was a

CONTINUED -

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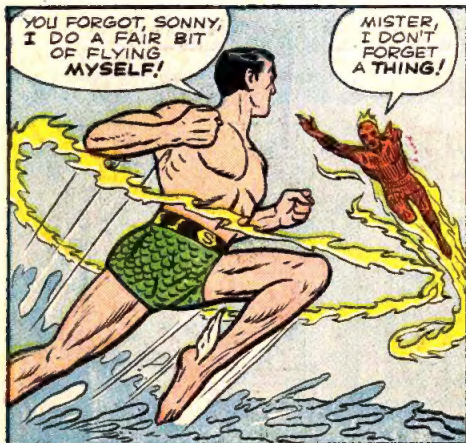
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YOU FORGOT, SONNY,  
I DO A FAIR BIT  
OF FLYING  
MYSELF!

MISTER,  
I DON'T  
FORGET  
A THING!

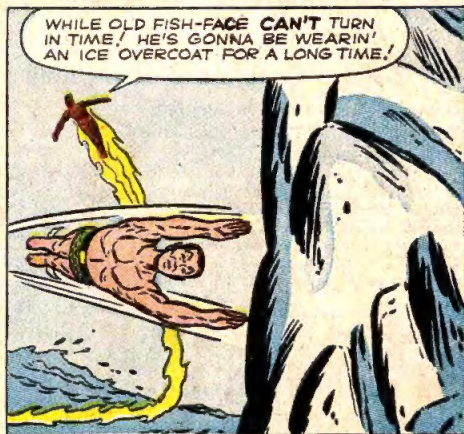


WITH NAMOR IN PURSUIT, THE TORCH  
STREAKS TOWARD A NEARBY ICEBERG...

I'VE  
LEARNED  
TO MANEUVER  
SO WELL...

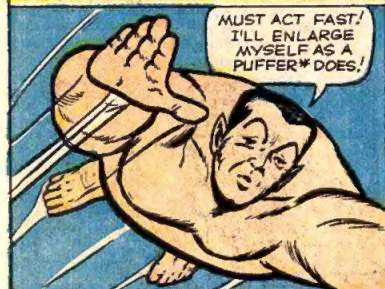


...THAT I CAN AVOID  
A COLLISION AT THE  
LAST SPLIT SECOND!



WHILE OLD FISH-FACE CAN'T TURN  
IN TIME! HE'S GONNA BE WEARIN'  
AN ICE OVERCOAT FOR A LONG TIME!

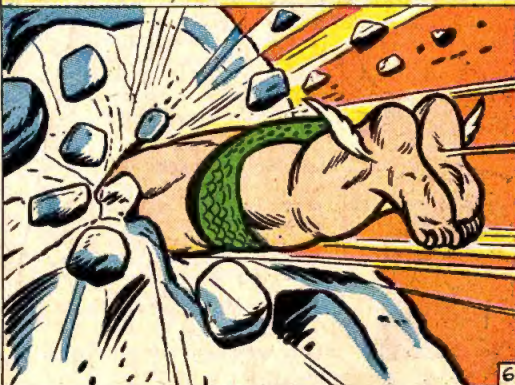
BUT NAMOR HAS **OTHER** RESOURCES,  
FOR HE POSSESSES THE POWERS OF ALL  
THE CREATURES LIVING BENEATH THE SEA!

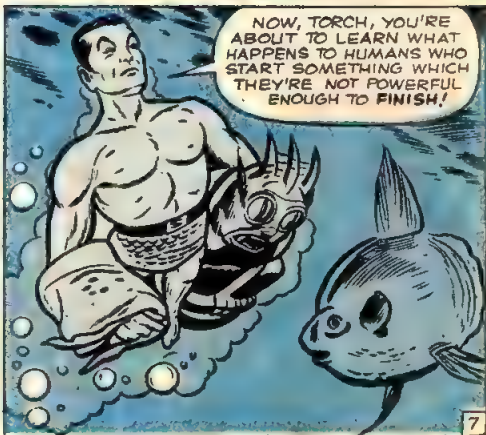


MUST ACT FAST!  
I'LL ENLARGE  
MYSELF AS A  
PUFFER\* DOES!

EDITOR'S NOTE: PUFFERS, ALSO KNOWN AS  
SWELLFISHES, CAN INFLATE THEIR BODIES WITH  
AIR OR WATER TILL THEY SWELL TO THREE  
TIMES THEIR NORMAL SIZE!

AND THE INFLATED FORM OF THE SUB-MARINER  
CRASHES INTO THE ICEBERG, EMBEDDING ITSELF DEEPLY...





AS SOON AS NAMOR REACHES THE SURFACE AND EXPOSES THE ANCIENT STATUE TO THE AIR AND SUN-LIGHT, IT EMITS STRANGE QUIVERING RAYS...

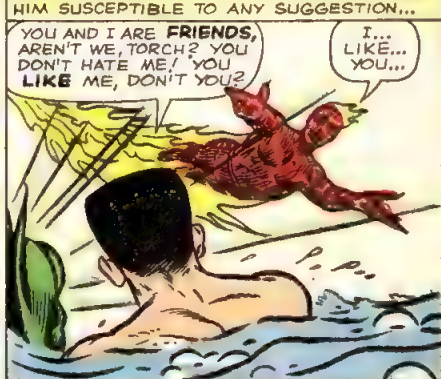
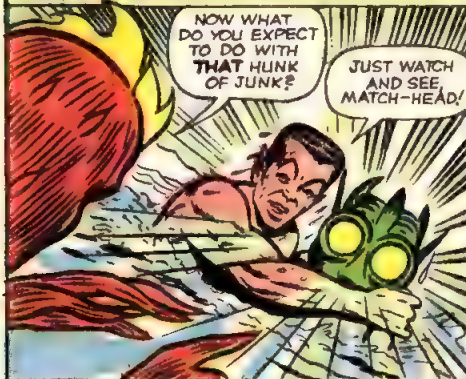
NOW WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO DO WITH THAT HUNK OF JUNK?

JUST WATCH AND SEE, MATCH-HEAD!

AND, AS THE SHIMMERING WAVES OF LIGHT SWEEP OVER THE HUMAN TORCH, THEY AFFECT HIM HYPNOTICALLY... SAPPING HIS WILL... MAKING HIM SUSCEPTIBLE TO ANY SUGGESTION...

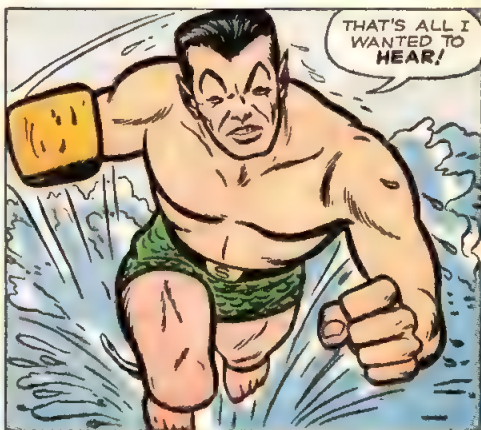
YOU AND I ARE FRIENDS, AREN'T WE, TORCH? YOU DON'T HATE ME! YOU LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?

I... LIKE... YOU...



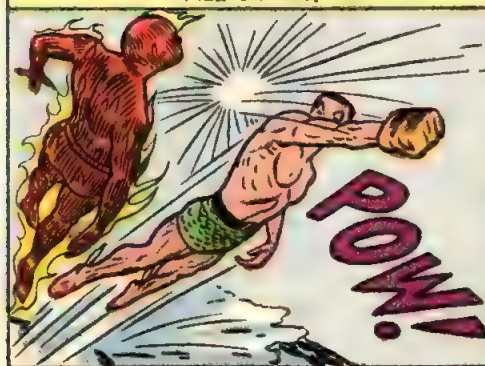
WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS... SO IF I COME TOWARDS YOU, YOU WON'T FLY AWAY, WILL YOU?

NO, FRIEND! I WON'T FLY AWAY...

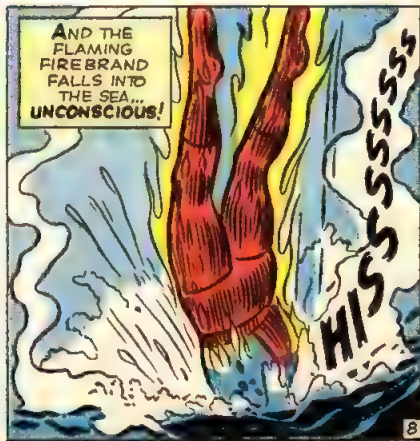


THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR!

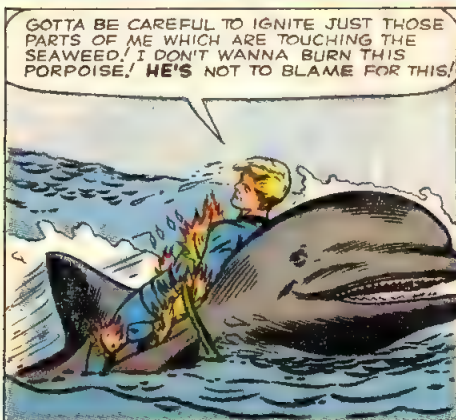
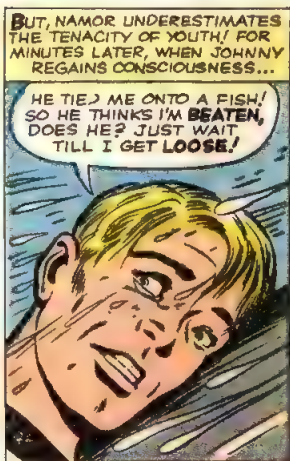
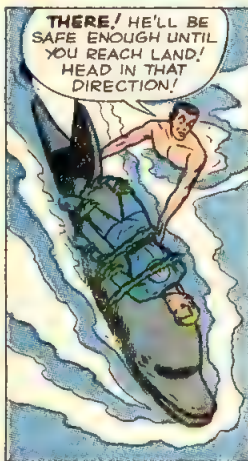
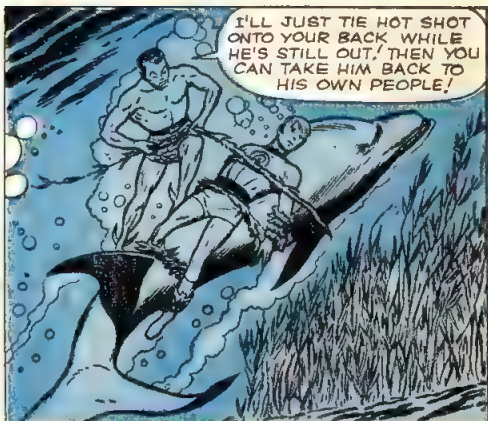
HIS FIST WRAPPED IN ASBESTOS TO PROTECT IT FROM THE FLAME, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER HITS THE HELPLESS TORCH WITH THE FORCE OF A PILE DRIVER!



AND THE FLAMING FIREBRAND FALLS INTO THE SEA... UNCONSCIOUS!



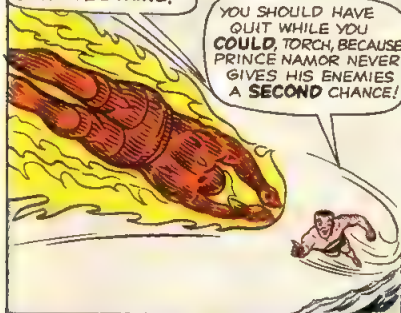
THE MONARCH OF THE SEA THEN  
COMMANDEERS A PASSING PORPOISE...



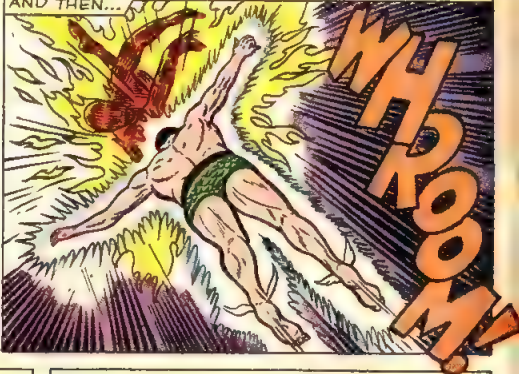
ENRAGED INTO A FLAMING FURY, THE HUMAN TORCH BLAZES BACK FOR ANOTHER ENCOUNTER WITH HIS FOE...

OKAY, FISH-FACE, THAT WAS YOUR ROUND, BUT THE NEXT ONE IS GONNA BE MINE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE QUIT WHILE YOU COULD, TORCH, BECAUSE PRINCE NAMOR NEVER GIVES HIS ENEMIES A SECOND CHANCE!



THE SUB-MARINER, USING ANOTHER OF HIS FISH-LIKE POWERS, SURROUNDS HIMSELF WITH ELECTRICITY IN THE MANNER OF AN ELECTRIC EEL, AS HE LEAPS TO MEET THE ONCOMING TORCH, AND THEN...



TWO IRRESISTIBLE FORCES, COLLIDING HEAD-ON WITH A SHATTERING IMPACT, CAN HAVE ONLY ONE RESULT---BOTH COMBATANTS FALL INTO THE SEA, STUNNED!



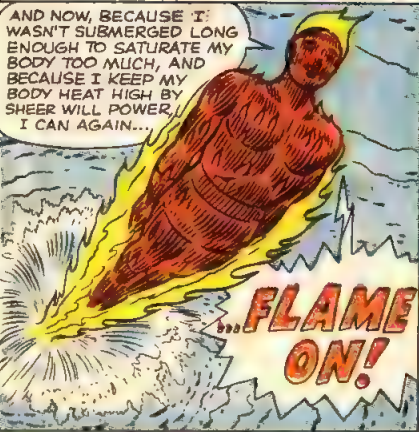
BUT, THE SAME ELEMENT THAT DOUSES TORCH'S FLAME, GIVES RENEWED VIGOR TO THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER, ALTHOUGH, WHEN PRINCE NAMOR ATTEMPTS TO SEIZE HIS FOE...

YEOOWW!

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT EVEN WHEN I CAN'T FLAME I CAN STILL BE PLENTY HOT!

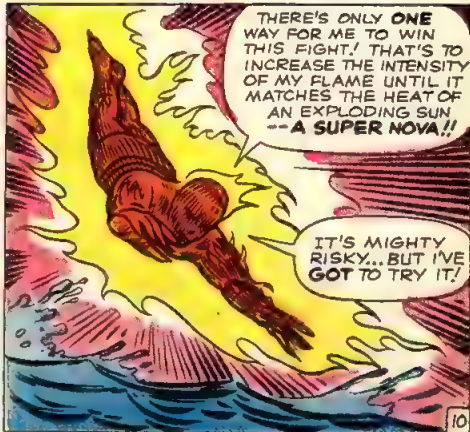


AND NOW, BECAUSE I WASN'T SUBMERGED LONG ENOUGH TO SATURATE MY BODY TOO MUCH, AND BECAUSE I KEEP MY BODY HEAT HIGH BY SHEER WILL POWER, I CAN AGAIN...



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO WIN THIS FIGHT! THAT'S TO INCREASE THE INTENSITY OF MY FLAME UNTIL IT MATCHES THE HEAT OF AN EXPLODING SUN -- A SUPER NOVA!!

IT'S MIGHTY RISKY... BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY IT!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

**An Amazing Invention—"Magic Art Reproducer"**

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THE FIRST DAY**

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**Anyone can Draw With This  
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Instantly!**



De Luxe Model  
Complete for only

**\$198**

—With extra  
high power,  
extra clear and  
sharp "repro-  
ducer" unit.

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This valuable illustrated guide is yours free with order of "Magic Art Reproducer." Packed with pictures showing all the basic poses of artists' models with simple instructions for beginners of art. Includes guidance on anatomy, techniques and figure action.



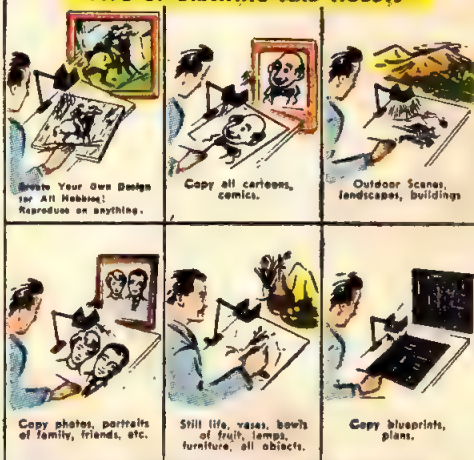
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BEFORE THE SUB-MARINER'S STARTLED EYES, THE HUMAN TORCH BECOMES AN AWESOME INFERNO OF HOT FLAME! AND THEN...

OKAY, NAMOR, THIS IS IT! NOTHING YOU CAN DO CAN MATCH THE POWER OF MY SUPER-NOVA HEAT!

AND, AS THE SEA MONARCH DIVES, HIS ENEMY FOLLOWS HIM, WITH A FLAME SO HOT THAT IT EVAPORATES THE WATERS AROUND IT, FORMING AN AIR POCKET FOR THE TORCH TO BREATHE IN...

IT TAKES EVERYTHING I'VE GOT TO ACHIEVE THIS HEAT!! I CAN ONLY KEEP IT UP FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES! THEN MY FLAME WILL GO OUT! SO, IF I DON'T CONQUER NAMOR BEFORE THEN, THAT'S ALL, BROTHER!

IN HIS FRANTIC FLIGHT TO ESCAPE THE UNBEARABLE HEAT, SUB-MARINER DIVES DOWN INTO THE DEEPEST REGIONS OF THE SUBTERRANEAN WORLD, BUT...

NO MATTER HOW FAR I DESCEND, I CAN'T LOSE HIM!

AND, EVEN AT THE OCEAN BOTTOM THE FANTASTIC CHASE DOES NOT END...

HE'S BURNING INTO THE FLOOR OF THE SEA! WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW??

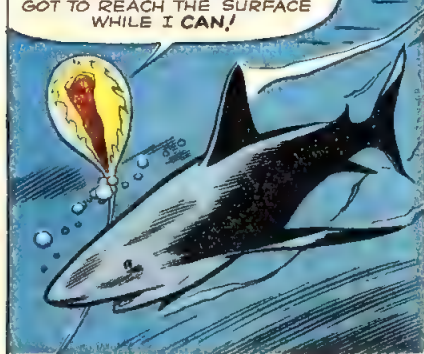
FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH GO THE SUB-MARINER AND HIS BLAZING PURSUER...

AT LAST I'VE GOT HIM WHERE I WANT HIM-- AND WHERE I'M GONNA LEAVE HIM!

THEN, AS THE TORCH TURNS AROUND AND SOARS UP OUT OF THE TUNNEL HE HAS CREATED...

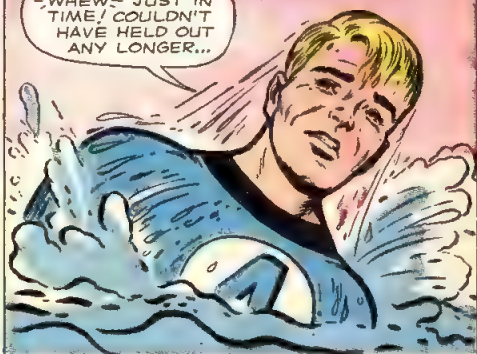
...THE OCEAN FLOOR ONCE AGAIN CLOSES UPON ITSELF TRAPPING THE SUB-MARINER IN ITS STYGIAN DEPTHS!

I GUESS THAT'LL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHO'S THE STRONGEST! AND NOW, I'VE GOT TO REACH THE SURFACE WHILE I CAN!



HIS LUCK IS WITH JOHNNY, FOR, BY THE TIME HIS FLAME HAS SPENT ITSELF...

~WHEW~ JUST IN TIME! COULDN'T HAVE HELD OUT ANY LONGER...



AHOY! A CASTAWAY!

IT'S HIM AGAIN! THE HUMAN TORCH! LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUR CHANCE TO DO HIM A GOOD TURN NOW! HOP TO IT, LADS!



EXHAUSTED FROM HIS ORDEAL OF FIRE, THE TORCH CAN ONLY MUTTER INCOHERENTLY AS HE'S HELPED ABOARD...

I BEAT HIM... I BEAT HIM... BEAT HIM...

WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT?

SEARCH ME!



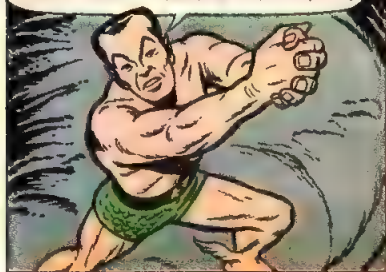
LIKELY AS NOT, IT'S SOME PRIVATE FANTASTIC FOUR BUSINESS! BEST FOR US NOT TO PRY, MATES!

AYE, CAP'N!

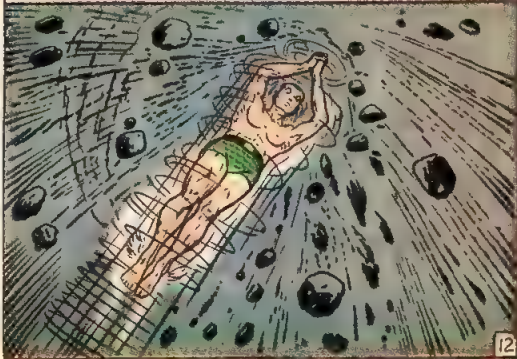


MEANWHILE, FAR BENEATH THE OCEAN FLOOR, A LONE TRAPPED FIGURE CONSIDERS HIS DESPERATE PLIGHT...

IT WILL TAKE ALL MY STRENGTH, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE! MY ARMS WILL BE THE "DRILL"... AND MY WINGED FEET WILL PROVIDE THE MOTION!



ROTATING WITH FANTASTIC SPEED, THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER STARTS BURROWING THRU ROCK AND SAND...



HIS STEEL-LIKE MUSCLES TWISTING AND TURNING, HIS POWERFUL HANDS BORING THRU EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH, THE MONARCH OF THE SEAS TUNNELS UPWARD... UPWARD...



TIRED... BUT CAN'T STOP... MUST GO ON... MUST...

...UNTIL AT LAST HE REACHES THE LIFE-SUSTAINING OCEAN WATERS!

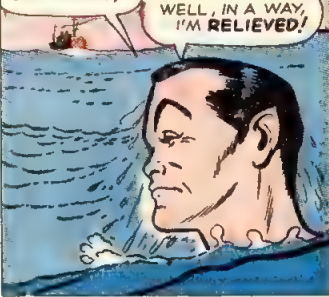
I'M FREE! BUT I'VE EXPENDED ALL MY ENERGY!



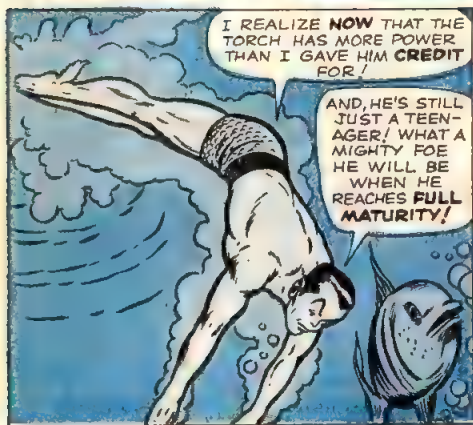
YET, I MUST RISE TO THE SURFACE AND FINISH THE BATTLE! FOR I'LL NEVER LET THE TORCH OR ANY HUMAN, DEFEAT ME! NEVER!

BUT IRONICALLY, WHEN NAMOR REACHES THE SURFACE, AND DOESN'T SEE HIS FOE IN SIGHT, HIS USUALLY RAZOR-SHARP INSTINCTS COME TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION...

HE'S GONE! HE MUST HAVE FLOWN BACK TO THE CONTINENT!

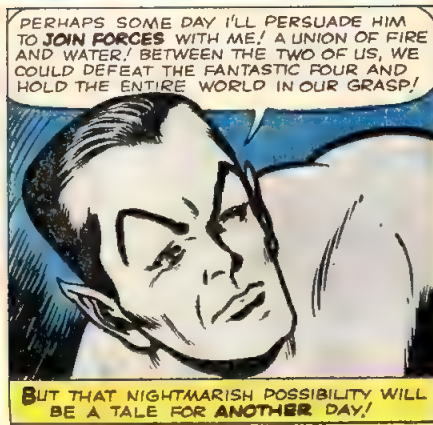


WELL, IN A WAY, I'M RELIEVED!



I REALIZE NOW THAT THE TORCH HAS MORE POWER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR!

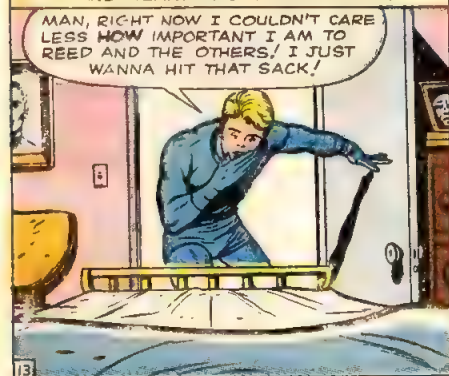
AND, HE'S STILL JUST A TEEN-AGER! WHAT A MIGHTY FOE HE WILL BE WHEN HE REACHES FULL MATURITY!



PERHAPS SOME DAY I'LL PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME! A UNION OF FIRE AND WATER! BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE COULD DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND HOLD THE ENTIRE WORLD IN OUR GRASP!

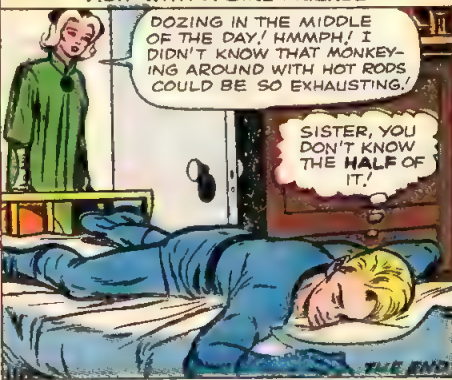
BUT THAT NIGHTMARISH POSSIBILITY WILL BE A TALE FOR ANOTHER DAY!

WHEN JOHNNY ARRIVES HOME, HE'S STILL WEAK AND WEARY FROM HIS ORDEAL...



MAN, RIGHT NOW I COULDN'T CARE LESS HOW IMPORTANT I AM TO REED AND THE OTHERS! I JUST WANNA HIT THAT SACK!

AND, WHEN SUE RETURNS FROM AN OVERNIGHT VISIT WITH A GIRL FRIEND...



DOZING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY! HAMPH! I DIDN'T KNOW THAT MONKEY-ING AROUND WITH HOT RODS COULD BE SO EXHAUSTING!

SISTER, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!



# SECRET WEAPON!

PLOT.....STAN LEE  
SCRIPT }.....LARRY LIEBER  
ART }  
INKING.....SOL BRODSKY  
LETTERING...ART SIMEK



**SOMETIMES IT CAN  
BE *MORE* DANGEROUS  
TO *POSSESS* A  
WEAPON THAN *NOT*  
TO POSSESS IT!  
ESPECIALLY *THIS*  
SECRET WEAPON!**

THE MOST DECISIVE BLOW OF THE LONG AND BITTER COLD WAR, WILL SOON BE **STRUCK!** IT WILL COME FROM BEHIND THE HEAVILY GUARDED WALLS OF THIS SECLUDED MILITARY INSTALLATION! WATCH AND SEE...

SOME OF THE BRASS SEEMS REAL NERVOUS TODAY!

YEAH! WHAT'S UP?

RESTRICTED AREA  
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL  
KEEP OUT!

INSIDE, A CHILL UNEASINESS PERVADES THE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BOARD...

DO YOU THINK THE RUMOR IS TRUE?

I DOUBT IT! IT'S TOO FANTASTIC!

BUT SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE...

SUPPOSE THERE IS A RED SPY IN OUR MIDST!

IF ONE OF US IS A RED AGENT, THE SECURITY BOYS'LL SOON FIND OUT WHO IT IS!

MEANWHILE, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

DID YOU DEVELOP THE GAS, PROFESSOR?

YES! I'VE FINALLY COMPLETED MY FORMULA!

I LOCKED IT IN THE VAULT FOR SAFEKEEPING! THE DOOR IS ELECTRONICALLY ATTUNED TO THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF MY HAND! ONLY I CAN OPEN IT-- LIKE THIS!

THERE IS THE GAS, GENTLEMEN--IN THAT CYLINDER. IN THE EVENT OF AN ENEMY ATTACK, IF OUR NATION'S LEADERS RELEASE THE VAPOR AND INHALE IT, IT WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM HARM!

THEN THEY'LL BE ABLE TO LEAD A COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST THE ENEMY!

GOOD DEAL, IF THE VODKA BOYS EVER START WORLD WAR III, WE'LL FINISH IT!

OKAY! KEEP THE GAS UNDER WRAPS, PROFESSOR--TILL THE PENTAGON SENDS FOR IT!

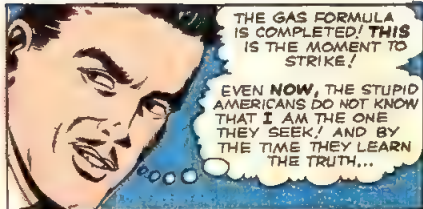
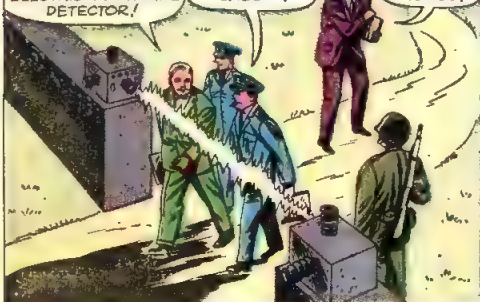
LATER, WHEN THE OFFICIALS  
LEAVE THE INSTALLATION  
FOR THE EVENING...

WITH THE POSSIBILITY  
OF A RED SPY IN OUR  
MIDST, IT'S A GOOD  
THING WE HAVE THIS  
ELECTRIC-EYE METAL  
DETECTOR!

A SPY COULDN'T  
STEAL SO MUCH  
AS A PIN, WITH-  
OUT GETTING CAUGHT!

OH! I MUST GO  
BACK FOR SOME  
IMPORTANT PAPERS  
THAT I FORGOT!

YOU OTHERS  
GO ON! I'LL  
CATCH UP  
TO YOU!



THE GAS FORMULA  
IS COMPLETED! **THIS**  
IS THE MOMENT TO  
STRIKE!

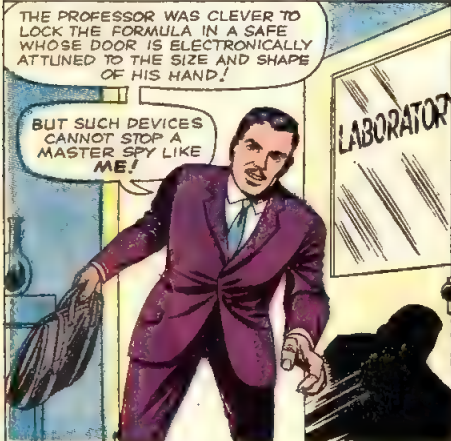
EVEN **NOW**, THE STUPID  
AMERICANS DO NOT KNOW  
THAT **I** AM THE ONE  
THEY SEEK! AND BY  
THE TIME THEY LEARN  
THE TRUTH...

...I, FEDOR ZELINKI,  
SHALL BE SAFELY OUT  
OF THE COUNTRY, WITH  
THEIR PRECIOUS SECRET  
GAS!



THE PROFESSOR WAS CLEVER TO  
LOCK THE FORMULA IN A SAFE  
WHOSE DOOR IS ELECTRONICALLY  
ATTUNED TO THE SIZE AND SHAPE  
OF HIS HAND!

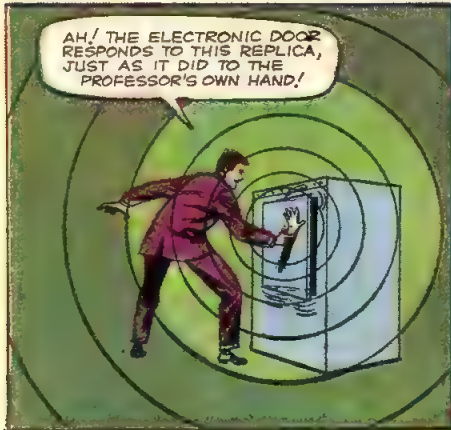
BUT SUCH DEVICES  
CANNOT STOP A  
MASTER SPY LIKE  
**ME!**



IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO GET THE  
PROFESSOR'S FINGERPRINTS... AND  
**FROM** THEM TO CONSTRUCT A PLASTER  
CAST OF HIS HAND! SO!



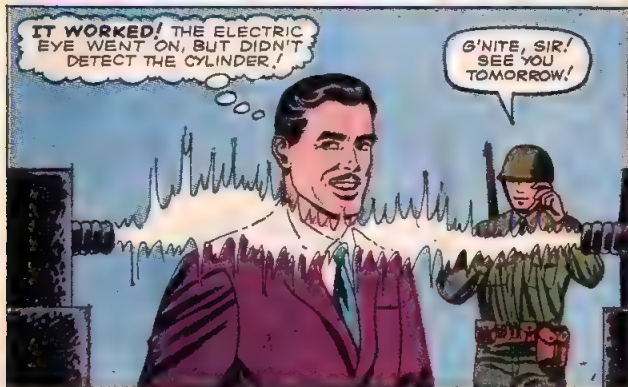
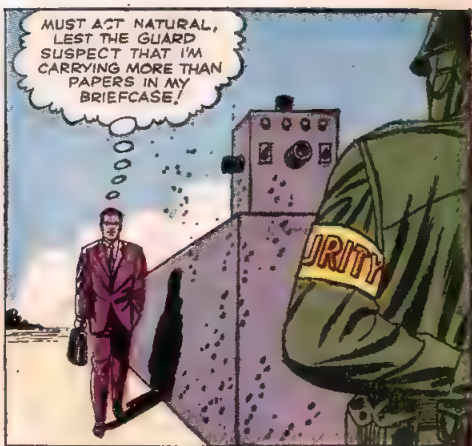
AH! THE ELECTRONIC DOOR  
RESPONDS TO THIS REPLICA,  
JUST AS IT DID TO THE  
PROFESSOR'S OWN HAND!



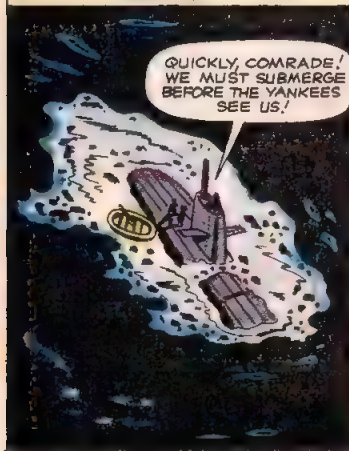
AND **THERE'S** THE GAS--  
INTENDED TO KEEP  
AMERICA'S  
LEADERS SAFE  
DURING AN  
ENEMY  
ATTACK...

... BUT INSTEAD IT  
SHALL BE USED TO  
SAFEGUARD MY  
LEADERS BEHIND  
THE IRON  
CURTAIN!

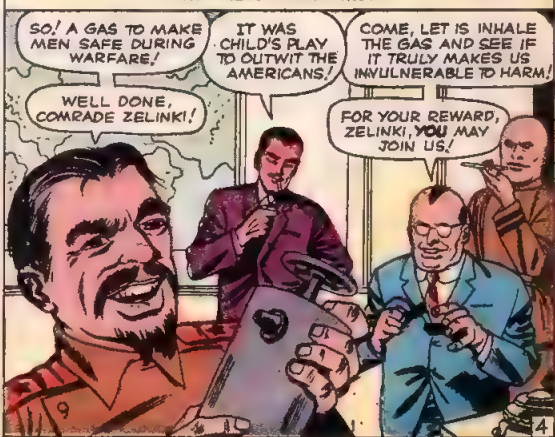




LATER, IN A LONELY AREA OFF THE COAST...

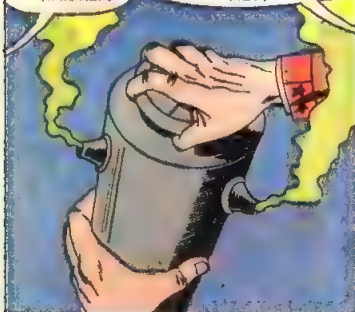


AND SO, THE RED AGENT SUCCEEDS IN DELIVERING OUR SECRET WEAPON TO HIS TYRANNICAL LEADERS BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN...



IF THE VAPOR IS EFFECTIVE, WE NEED NOT FEAR TO ATTACK ANY NATION, FOR WE WILL NOT BE HARMED!

DA! IF THE ENEMY STRIKES BACK, THEY CAN HARM ONLY OUR SUBJECTS! BUT WE, THE LEADERS, WILL REMAIN SAFE AND CONTINUE TO FIGHT UNTIL WE HAVE CONQUERED ALL!



AND, AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE IRON CURTAIN...

WELL, IT WAS A BOLD PLAN, BUT IT WORKED!

ZELINKI STOLE OUR "SECRET WEAPON" JUST AS WE FIGURED HE WOULD!



BY NOW, THE RED BRASS MUST BE GETTING A GOOD WHIFF OF THE GAS!

AND THEY'LL FIND THAT IT REALLY WORKS...



"...IT WILL INDEED KEEP THEM SAFE DURING AN ENEMY ATTACK! AFTER ALL..."



"...HOW CAN AN ENEMY POSSIBLY HARM THEM..."



"...WHEN HE CANNOT FIND THEM?!!!"



AND SO, THE REDS SHRINK DOWN...DOWN TO THE SIZE OF INSECTS...TAKING WITH THEM THEIR DREAM OF CONQUEST! THEN, WHEN THE LAST WISPS OF REDUCING GAS HAVE CLEARED, THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE... AND THE COLD WAR A STEP CLOSER TO ITS ULTIMATE END!

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bright new golf club!

When he raised his eyes again, the bright, smiling eyes of the little man were staring into his. "What do you think of my little gadget now?" he chuckled.

"Incredible," said Bill in hushed tones.

"But true," added the little man. "There isn't anything it can't become. Just name it. Interested?"

The look in Bill's eyes told its own story.

"All right then," said his visitor. "Take it for twenty-four hours on a trial basis. Put it through its paces. If you're satisfied, we can talk business then."

Bill nodded approval, and in a flash the little man vanished. Under ordinary circumstances, this would have shocked Bill, but after what had happened, it was merely anti-climactic. For a while he just stood there, staring at the bright cylinder in his palm.

"Could it really have happened?" he mused.

There was only one way to find out. He thought of a new shotgun he had seen the week

before. Barely had the image flashed through his mind when its counterpart was in his hand. Other tests followed, and in turn the Universal Gadget became a flyrod, a camera, a power drill and even a Geiger counter. In all cases, between changes, it would revert back to its original form. So it was again at this moment, as Bill placed it on the table.

"Then I haven't been dreaming," he said aloud. "This could be the greatest thing that ever happened to me, and yet . . ." He was almost afraid to say it, and yet inside, he knew that the Gadget could have dire results as well. There was always the possibility that it would fall into the wrong hands.

Slowly he paced the room. "Surely it's a great gadget," he said aloud, "but a dangerous one. The stranger who brought it can't be of our world, nor our time. What I do know is that I was thoroughly happy before the doorbell rang, and that's how I want it to continue."

He turned and faced the glittering object on the table. If it turned into a camera, a fishing rod, a golf club . . . perhaps

it would work in reverse? What if he had no use for a Universal Gadget . . . no use whatsoever?

The thought had barely flashed through his mind when the object underwent a change. For a moment it glowed a bright orange, then slowly it dimmed, and with a slight popping sound, it was gone!

A sigh of relief escaped from Bill's lips. A minute later his wife returned from the movie.

"Was it a nice ball game, dear?" she asked.

"I didn't watch it," Bill said.

"A salesman came by and . . ."

"At this time of night?" she interrupted.

Bill smiled at her brightly. It was unlikely for a salesman to have called at that hour, and if she doubted the easiest part, how could she believe the rest?

"Come on," he said aloud.

"Let's go out to the kitchen and have ourselves some fresh lemonade!"

## THE END

### STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE

ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1915, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1923, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (75 Stat. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

STRANGE TALES, published monthly, at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1962

1 The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, manager, editor and business managers are Publisher, MARTIN GOODMAN, 655 Madison Ave., New York 21, N. Y.; Editor, STAN LEE, 655 Madison Ave., New York 21, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Nemo, Business Manager, JOHN F. HAYES, 655 Madison Ave., New York 21, N. Y.

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5 The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was (This information is required by the act of June 11, 1960 to be included in all statements regardless of frequency of issue.) 136,637 (Signed) MARTIN GOODMAN

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1962.

(SEAL) DONIS SIEGLER

Notary Public, State of New York

No. 24-990900

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Certificate filed in New York County

Commission Expires March 30, 1964



# *The* TREASURE *of* PLANETOID 12!



STORY.....STAN LEE  
ART.....STEVE DITKO  
LETTERING.. ART SIMEK

**E**VEN THE GREATEST TREASURE  
IN ALL THE UNIVERSE WILL  
DO A MAN NO GOOD--UNLESS  
HE CAN *RECOGNIZE* IT!

THE YEAR IS 2,100 A.D.! THE NAME OF OUR "HERO" IS CHARLIE NAST! AND, NO MATTER WHAT JOB HE GETS, THE STORY IS ALWAYS THE SAME...

LOAFING AGAIN, EH, CHARLIE? YOU'RE FIRED!

SO! TRYIN' TO ROB ME WHILE YOU WORK FOR ME, HUH? YOU'RE FIRED!

WHEN I TELL YOUR NEW BOSS ABOUT THAT BARROOM BRAWL YOU STARTED, YOU'LL BE OUT OF WORK AGAIN, CHARLIE. WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STRAIGHTEN UP AND REFORM?

BAH! EVERYBODY'S AGAINST ME! I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! I'M JUST UNLUCKY, THAT'S ALL! I NEVER GET A BREAK!

GUYS LIKE CHARLIE NAST NEVER ADMIT THAT THEY'RE TO BLAME FOR THEIR MISFORTUNES! WELL, LET'S GET ON WITH OUR LITTLE TALE...

HMM, THERE'S A JANITOR'S JOB OPEN AT THE BROADCASTING COMPANY! AND LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE PAYROLL. THEY GET EVERY WEEK!

**WORLD BROADCASTING NETWORK**

**JANITOR WANTED**

THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR! I'LL GRAB ME THE JANITOR'S JOB, AND THEN, ONCE I'M INSIDE, I'LL FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TO STEAL THAT PAYROLL! SHOULDN'T BE HARD FOR A BIG BRAIN LIKE ME!

AND SO, A FEW WEEKS LATER...

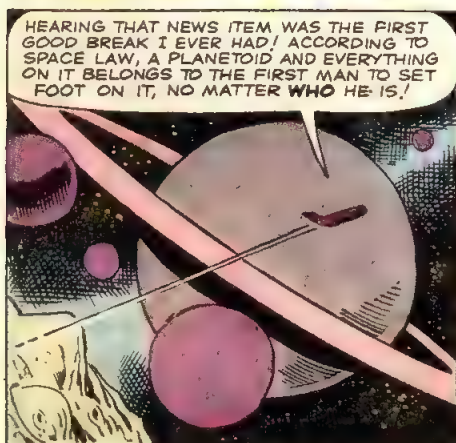
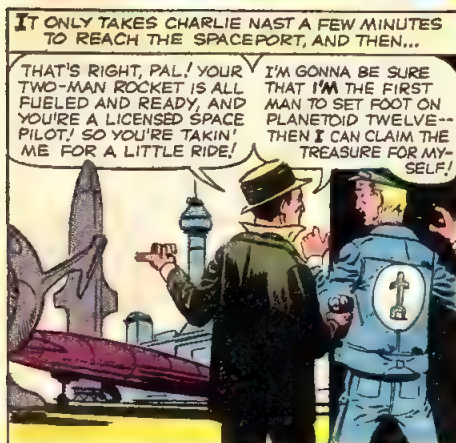
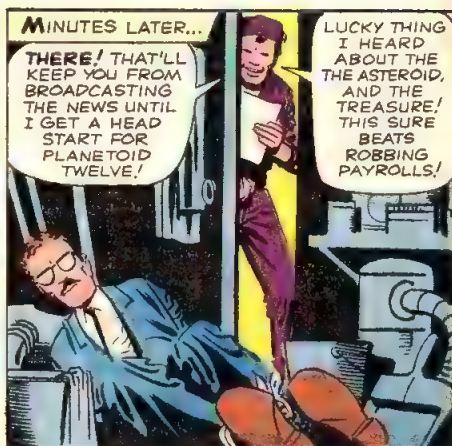
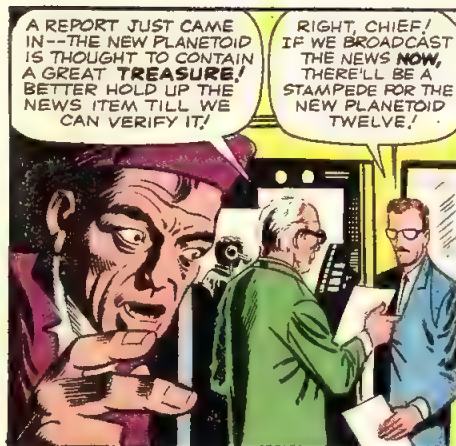
THERE'S THE PAYROLL BEING DELIVERED AGAIN, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! NOW THAT I'VE GOT THE TIMING DOWN PAT, I'LL MAKE MY MOVE NEXT WEEK!

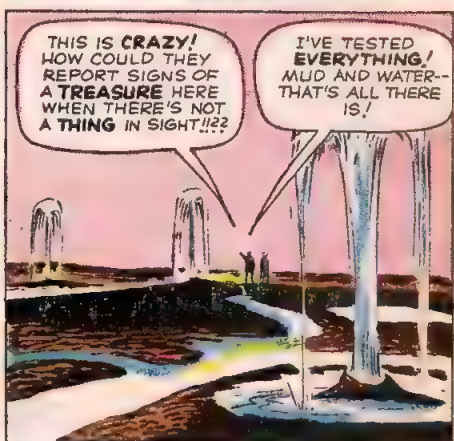
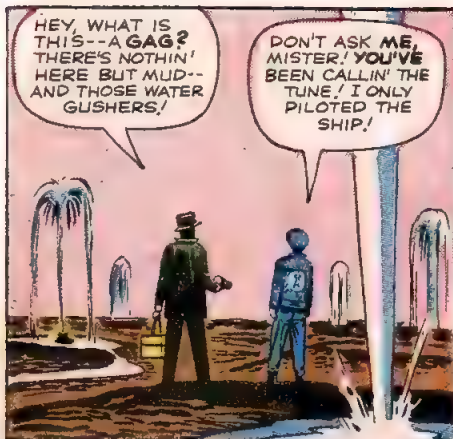
BUT, A SHORT TIME LATER, CHARLIE GETS A SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLAN...

YOU'RE ON THE AIR IN TEN MINUTES, SAM!

RIGHT! SAY-- THIS FIRST ITEM IS INTERESTING! A NEW PLANETOID HAS BEEN SIGHTED IN SECTOR B, AREA 7YG!

A NEW PLANETOID! THE FIRST IN YEARS!







BUT, PERHAPS THE TREASURE...

I SAID SHUDDUP, DIDN'T I?!! THERE AINT NO TREASURE! NEVER WAS-- AND NEVER WILL BE! THE WHOLE THING'S A WASTE OF TIME!



NO! LISTEN TO ME! I CAN TELL! JUST --JUST LOOK AT YOU!

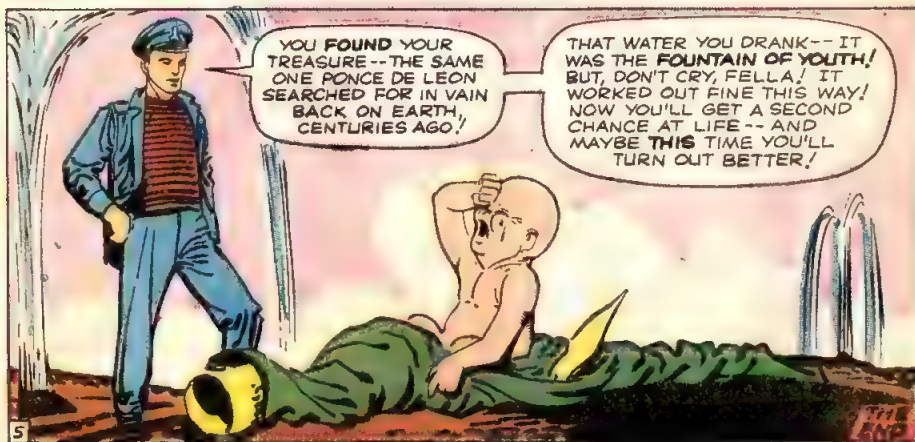
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?? WHA-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?



OH NO--NO!



YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED, MISTER-- BUT I GUESS IT'S BEST THIS WAY, ANYHOW...



YOU FOUND YOUR TREASURE--THE SAME ONE PONCE DE LEON SEARCHED FOR IN VAIN BACK ON EARTH, CENTURIES AGO!

THAT WATER YOU DRANK-- IT WAS THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! BUT, DON'T CRY, FELLA! IT WORKED OUT FINE THIS WAY! NOW YOU'LL GET A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE-- AND MAYBE THIS TIME YOU'LL TURN OUT BETTER!

# 104

# KINGS' Knights

ONLY  
**\$1.49**  
postpaid



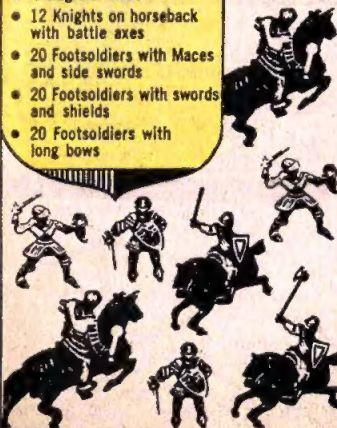
#### Here's What You Get:

- 4 Kings on horseback with swords
- 12 Knights in armor on horseback with Pikes
- 12 Knights on horseback with Banners
- 4 Buglers afoot
- 12 Knights on horseback with battle axes
- 20 Footsoldiers with Maces and side swords
- 20 Footsoldiers with swords and shields
- 20 Footsoldiers with long bows

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# BOYS! MEN!

# MY SECRET NEW MUSCLE BUILDING METHOD

## CAN BUILD YOU A MAGNIFICENT NEW HE-MAN-MUSCLED BODY IN JUST TEN MINUTES A DAY—with absolutely NO weights—NO bar-bells—NO EXERCISE AT ALL!

Yes! If the girls LAUGH at you now when you take off your shirt—they'll be breaking down the doors to get dates with you—once they've seen the rugged DYNAFLEX BODY can give you! I'll build you a tough brutal massive body—shoulders clad with solid inches of he-man BRAWN. I'll give you bulging biceps, tripper-hammer fists, power-packed legs, and a chest that will have you popping the buttons off your shirt with pride!

(—says MIKE MARVEL,  
"Builder of Champion Bodies")

### ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR BODY NOW?

Fat—do **YOURSELF** a favor! Take a good long look in a mirror. Do you see a puny, stunted body—stubby arms—bumpy shoulders—

a baby stomach and skinny legs? Do girls laugh and follow you when you take off your shirt?

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT—I can add solid pounds of rippling, steely he-man MEAT to your build. I can take those stunted arms and PACK EVERY INCH with colossal HE-MAN-MUSCLE. I can take that tawdry chest and build an six rugged inches of string taut HE-MAN-SIZED BRAWN. I can clothe your skinny frame with GLIST'N' RIPPLING DYNAFLEX MUSCLES that will have the girls gasping with awe and admiration! And with NO tiring exercise. NO high-priced bar-bells or gym equipment!**

Or is your problem a body sagging with soft rolls of unhealthy, unhandsome FAT? Put muscles—sagging stomach—slanted face—arms heavy with layers of FLUB-BERT ARE YOU ASHAMED to go to the beach and let them see your "FAT-MAN PHYSIQUE"?

If so, wake up! THIS IS IT! I will build DYNAFLEX BODY. Armored with a sheath of hard tough handsome muscle. I can build you into a healthy, streamlined HERCULES—burbling with dynamic mighty strength. I'll give you a fast rock-hard midsection—legs muscled like coiled steel springs. I can build you a rugged handsome build brim-full of the magnetic SUPER-BODY SEX-APPEAL girls are hungry for. And with NO starvation diets—NO fatiguing calisthenics—NO expensive health-foods.

### HOW DYNAFLEX BUILDS BEAUTIFUL BODIES

DYNAFLEX is the modern miracle of body-building. It takes no tiresome exercise—"crash" diets, protein feeds, and no weights or bar-bells. DYNAFLEX is the amazing discovery of a West German Doctor

whose research into the Science of Strength found a technique for how to build GREAT BRAWNY MUSCLES in ten minutes a day. With DYNAFLEX you get "fast" each muscle once—a certain way—that is more effective than if you exercised that muscle 20, 30, even 100 times the old-fashioned way. With DYNAFLEX you get bigger results in ten minutes than after hours of grunting and grunting, battling heavy weights.

DYNAFLEX causes each muscle in your body to bring out its round, steely fullness and satiny symmetry. DYNAFLEX packs that muscle with strong vibrant energy—strength and energy—FAST. In ten minutes a day I can give you your frame with healthily rippling muscle—give you a deep, powerful chest—give you a trim, well-defined—tough, slim waist—defined and trim, steel-spring legs—simply turn "DYNAFLEXING" each muscle once a day.

There's nothing wrong with the bar-bell and weight-lifting method, is there? But what? Why waste time and money, why sweat and strain your joints with that unsymmetrical BARBELL-STRONG BODY—when you can do it better—stronger—faster—with the DYNAFLEX SECRET?

### STRONG-MAN SEX-APPEAL ATTRACTS GIRLS

No honest, down down you KNOW you envy the boy with the virile, magnificent build. Every man and boy secretly desires a broad brawny back, a solid man-muscled chest, handsome he-man shoulders, arms rippling with tough, steely sinews, a narrow waist, slim hips and springs, power-packed legs. Girls go for a fellow with TWO-FISTED BICEPS and they only laugh at skinny guys or "fatso's".

Let me give you a glowing new body, brimming over with energy and irresistible inches of solid muscle to give you that he-man appeal. I can build three inches of beef and brawn on your shoulders, I can give you a handsome super-body of terrific strength, give you a crushing grip, legs swarmed with steel springs. A lean fast rock-solid punch-proof midsection. Pack your body with energy and thrilling strength that will have girls falling at your feet.

Mike Marvel System, DEPT. 63, 285 Market St., Newark, N.J.

### GIVE ME TEN MINUTES A DAY —THAT'S ALL!

After DYNAFLEX, you'll be able to roll up your sleeves and take off your shirt and let the first time in your life, you'll be PROUD of your manly build. Yes, you, and goodness to your weak, flabby frame—get ready for adventure and romance with a solid physique that glows and vibrates with virile he-man appeal. You'll be really proud to have people see your MAGNIFICENT HE-MAN BUILD. You'll be the center of eyes. And, when the fellows stare with awe and jealousy—when the girls swoon around to stare at your iron lines or those your bulging biceps chest—when they ask in amazement how you did it—tell them about the Magic Secret of DYNAFLEX!

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Mike Marvel

### ARE YOU WEAK, ALWAYS TIRED, LACK PE?

Whether you're thin and scrawny, or sagging with saggy fat—my secret DYNAFLEX method will drain you, vigor and red-blooded vitality into your puny, exhausted body. Once DYNAFLEX makes you a two-fisted dynamo of manly beauty, rippling with power, glowing with magnetic sex-appeal—you'll be bursting with self-go. Men, you'll be really ALIVE—trailing with zest and rip-roaring energy—for the first time in years!

### PROOF!

"I tried two other systems, before my buddy told me about DYNAFLEX. It really works—and how! I've put two inches of solid muscle on my biceps, three inches on my chest. It's like magic!"

L. C., New York City  
My never thought you could build terrific muscles without starvation or weights. Started DYNAFLEX two weeks ago, and am building a great physique."

G. C., Detroit, Mich.  
"DYNAFLEX is the best yet. Only three weeks, and I have more dates than I can handle! I am telling all my pals about DYNAFLEX."

F. B., Chicago, Ill.

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### 'SECRETS OF ATTRACTING GIRLS!'

Fellows! Mail the coupon now, and receive Mike Marvel's FREE GIFT to you, this exciting and informative book. Discover a secret method for developing a new, almost MAGNETIC way of attracting the girls. At parties, dances, at the beach—you'll see the girls clustering around you breathlessly, while the rest watch anxiously. "What does HE have that WE don't?" they will say. The answer is in this exciting new book, your GIFT from Mike Marvel. Fill out and mail the coupon NOW!



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- ☐ Build muscle on inner wrists and arms
- ☐ Develop crushing grip, two-fisted punch-power

MIKE MARVEL System, Dept. 63  
285 Market St.,  
Newark, N.J.

Okay, Mike! Hop to it! Send me your COMPLETE (nothing else to buy later) body-building course DYNAFLEX, to win a HERCULES HE-MAN BODY in just ten minutes a day. Rush my order for the DYNAFLEX SYSTEM and my free gift book "Secrets of Attracting Girls" an iron money-back guarantee, in plain English. I don't desire a splendid physique becomes more popular with girls you will refund my money in full.

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